

Manford Kuhn's Twenty Statements Test

Fill in the blank with 20 different answers.

I am ... _____

I am ... _____

I am ... _____

I am ... _____

I am ... _____

I am ... _____

I am ... _____

I am ... _____

I am ... _____

I am ... _____

I am ... _____

I am ... _____

I am ... _____

I am ... _____

I am ... _____

I am ... _____

I am ... _____

I am ... _____

I am ... _____

I am ... _____

Analyze

No Cheating- do the test first. Then...

Count up your responses on the previous page in each of the following modes. There are four main categories of how people describe themselves:

A MODE

Identify the individual in terms of physical attributes, e.g., I am blond, I am thin, I live in the mountains.

B MODE

Identify the individual in terms of socially defined status & roles, e.g., I am a student, I am a father, I am a physician.

C MODE

Identify the individual in terms of styles of behavior & personality traits that are more independent of social structure, e.g., I am happy, I am charismatic, I am a fan of rock music.

D MODE

Responses so general or abstract that they do not provide accurate information about the individual, e.g., I am a child of God, I am the universe, I am a figment of imagination.

More questions to think about...

Group Vs Individualism

Researcher Louis Zurcher found that in the 1960s, individuals were more likely to give B-mode, responses, but in the 1970s and 1980s, people were more likely to give C-mode responses. Do you do things for your own benefit or for the benefit of the group? What do you think are the consequences for a society overwhelmingly populated by one personality type or the other?

Gender Differences

How many of your above traits and roles are appropriate mainly for one sex or the other? Typically, the traits that males use to describe themselves include such adjectives as decisive, courageous, or aggressive; whereas women typically identify themselves as tender, sympathetic, or caring. If you crossed off the sex-role expectations from your list would you feel less secure about who you are?

Self Emergence

How did you get to have the self you have? Try to recall when you first started to define yourself in those terms. How old were you? Can you recall who the people were who encouraged you to consider those traits & concepts important? Were you rewarded or punished for certain self definitions by others? How has your self definitions changed over your years?

Communication Differences

If you asked your family and friends to define you, would they define you the same way? Do you define others by the same modes as you define yourself? Learning how to communicate to your loved ones by the way in which they communicate may increase your appreciation and understanding of each other. Can you think outside your box? Does someone else's definition of you change the way you feel about him/her?

Development of Twenty Statements Test

Kuhn and Thomas McPartland developed the Twenty Statements Test (TST) in 1954 to measure self-concept. They developed this test with the assumption that they could develop a standardized way to identify and measure self-attitudes. In this test, people were asked to respond to the question “Who Am” with up to twenty different responses. The goal of this test was to uncover the components of an individual's core self. Some main concepts in symbolic interactionism are self, self-concept, self theory, identity, role taking, role theory, status, and social construction of reality. Kuhn's greatest contribution to social psychology was his development of the concept of a core self and his coining of the term “self theory” for his brand of symbolic interactionism. His underlying theoretical assumption was that every person has stable components of their self that are unchanging from situation to situation. Whereas his opponents saw behavior as situational, emergent, and nondeterministic, Kuhn believed that it was determined by pre-existing variables having to do with static and measurable aspects of the self in combination with social, historical, and developmental conditions. He understood the self as an object, and as both a cause and a consequence of behavior. He felt that the self was important because it revealed people's conceptions of their own identity, which would in turn reveal their behavior patterns. He felt that a person's plan of action in response to a particular question or situation was indicative of a person's total behavior pattern and attitude toward that particular object or situation.

Manford Kuhn biography. <http://www.bookrags.com/biography/manford-h-kuhn-soc/>